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Contact: Ari B. Adler
517-373-5886

Sikkema: State Departments Must Trim Spending to Cover Salary Increases

LANSING – State departments will need to trim spending in other areas of their budgets to cover the increase in salaries after the governor agreed to a 10-percent increase over the next three fiscal years.

“Employee raises will need to come out of department budgets, not taxpayers’ wallets,” said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema. “The governor is making commitments to spend money we don’t have.”

According to the nonpartisan Senate Fiscal Agency, the state employee salary increases agreed to by the governor could cost the state an estimated \$219 million for fiscal years 2006 through 2008. This figure does not include retirement and health benefits. The estimated breakdown per department is as follows:

Department	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Agriculture	\$522,000	\$1.1 million	\$1.1 million
Attorney General	\$535,000	\$1.1 million	\$1.1 million
Civil Rights	\$111,000	\$226,000	\$235,000
Civil Service	\$166,000	\$340,000	\$353,000
Community Health	\$3.9 million	\$8 million	\$8.3 million
Corrections	\$13.3 million	\$27 million	\$28 million
Education	\$332,000	\$677,000	\$704,000
Env. Quality	\$1.2 million	\$2.4 million	\$2.5 million
FIA	\$7.2 million	\$14.8 million	\$15.4 million
HAL	\$175,000	\$357,000	\$371,000
Information Tech	\$1.4 million	\$2.8 million	\$2.9 million
Labor & Econ Growth	\$3.3 million	\$6.7 million	\$7 million
DMB	\$616,000	\$1.3 million	\$1.3 million
Military Affairs	\$673,000	\$1.4 million	\$1.4 million
Natural Resources	\$1.4 million	\$2.9 million	\$3 million
Secretary of State	\$1.1 million	\$2.3 million	\$2.4 million
State Police	\$2.6 million	\$5.3 million	\$5.5 million
Transportation	\$2.6 million	\$5.3 million	\$5.5 million
Treasury	\$1.2 million	\$2.6 million	\$2.7 million
TOTAL	\$42.3 million	\$86.6 million	\$89.8 million

“We aren’t raising taxes. We aren’t cutting university budgets. We aren’t cutting scholarships. We aren’t cutting local police and fire services,” said Sikkema, R-Wyoming. “We are getting a handle on spending. This isn’t about politics or elections. This is about making sure every tax dollar is spent wisely and for the maximum value possible.”